

# A Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations

Effective March 1, 2010



*Serving nature and you*™

# What's New in 2010

- Bighead carp, common carp, grass carp and silver carp can now be taken by hand-net, and those that jump from the water into a boat or on land may be taken and possessed in any number.
- Ice fishing tackle, or tip-ups, are considered a pole-and-line method.
- Unanchored jug lines in lakes must be personally attended at least one time per hour.
- Nongame fish may be taken by bow 24 hours a day on portions of the Missouri, Mississippi and St. Francis rivers. See pages 10, 37 and 39.
- Invasive zebra mussels have been found in Pomme de Terre as well as 5 other Missouri waters. See tips on slowing their spread on page 31.

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*Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.*

# Sport Fishing in Missouri

When it comes to fishing, Missouri has a lot to offer. While there are more than 200 species of fish in the Show-Me State, anglers focus on only about two dozen. Seasons are long, and daily limits are generous. However, regulations exist to improve and maintain the quality of fishing, ensure that everyone has an equal chance of catching fish, and protect fisheries resources.

The *Wildlife Code of Missouri* is a permissive code. This means that you may take or attempt to take only those species of fish and other aquatic wildlife permitted by the *Code*, and only by those methods, and only at the times and under the circumstances mentioned. As one angler put it: "If they don't say you can, you can't!"

A permissive code means that rather than giving you an endless list of "thou shalt nots," we tell you what you may do. The reason for this is to make access to Missouri fishing as fair and as uncomplicated as possible.

## In Your Hands

The information in this booklet is only a summary of the fishing rules and contains only those rules that affect the ordinary sport angler. It is NOT a legal document and is subject to revision during the current year. Refer to the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* or the Missouri Code of State Regulations for complete rules at [www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp).

## ATV Users: Don't risk losing your fishing & hunting privileges!

To help protect fish and other aquatic wildlife, it is illegal for anyone (except landowners and lessees on land they own or lease and some agricultural workers) to drive ATVs in Missouri's streams and rivers unless the ATV is on a crossing that is part of the highway system. Violators could lose their fishing and hunting privileges.

## Help a new angler discover the fun of fishing

Free Fishing Days, June 12 and 13, are a great time to introduce family and friends to the joys of fishing. No permits or prescribed area daily fishing tags are required for that weekend.

Along with the fish, you'll catch some priceless memories.

Visit [www.MissouriConservation.org](http://www.MissouriConservation.org) and search "Take Me Fishing" for tips on permits and places to go.



# Permits: General Information

Everyone who fishes must have the appropriate lifetime, annual or daily fishing permit or qualify for an exemption.

The following do not need a lifetime, annual or daily fishing permit, but must purchase a daily trout fishing tag or trout permit when or where required:

- any Missouri resident landowner and resident lessee of land, and all members of their immediate households (see definition on page 45), when fishing on the land they own or on which they lease and reside
- any Missouri resident (whether or not meeting the definition of a landowner) who owns land that completely encloses a body of water, or any member of his or her immediate household, when fishing in those waters
- any Missouri resident 65 years of age or older
- any person (resident or nonresident) 15 years of age or younger. **Note:** Youngsters fishing without a permit are limited to the following methods—pole and line, gig, bow, crossbow, snaring, grabbing and snagging.
- any Missouri resident with a visual acuity not exceeding 20/200 in the better eye with maximum correction, or having 20 degree or less field of visual concentric contraction. Must carry a certified statement of eligibility from a licensed ophthalmologist, optometrist or physician
- any Missouri resident who is so severely and permanently disabled as to be unable to move freely without the aid of a wheelchair. Must carry a certified statement of eligibility from a licensed physician
- any Missouri resident with cerebral palsy or mental retardation as defined in Missouri Revised Statutes, section 630.005, and who is so severely disabled that he or she cannot fish alone. Must be accompanied by a licensed adult angler and possess a certified statement of eligibility from a licensed physician qualified to evaluate and treat the developmentally disabled
- any resident or nonresident who is an honorably discharged veteran who has a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service. Must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the Veterans Administration.

Any person—without permit or prescribed area daily fishing tag—may fish during Free Fishing Days, June 12 and 13, 2010. Also, a fishing permit is not required to fish privately stocked waters. On private licensed trout fishing areas, customers and guests may fish for trout without a permit.

## Qualifications for Resident Permits

**A Missouri resident**, for permit purposes, is a person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident. Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card may receive resident permit privileges if they meet the resident requirements listed above.

**A nonresident who is a registered student** attending a public or private secondary, post secondary, or vocational school in Missouri and who lives in Missouri while attending school may purchase resident permits, except lifetime

permits. Students must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status while hunting, fishing or trapping. Permits must be purchased at Conservation Department offices that sell permits.

The following and their immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits:

- Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces
- all members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri

## Permit Obligations

Accepting a permit means that you:

- agree to observe all the rules of the Wildlife Code;
- will not loan your permit to another;
- will allow inspection of your permit, picture identification, catch and equipment by an agent of the Conservation Department;
- will carry your permit while fishing. If you ordered your permit by telephone or on the internet and have not received it by mail, you must carry the permit authorization number and picture identification with you while fishing until your permit arrives.

## Purchasing Permits

You can purchase or replace your permits:

- at local permit vendors
- by calling 1-800-392-4115  
(additional \$2 fee per person applies)
- online at [www.wildlifelicenses.com](http://www.wildlifelicenses.com)  
(additional \$2 fee per person applies).



Allow 10 days for delivery of telephone and online purchases.

Lost or mutilated permits can be replaced by any vendor after verifying through a computer file that you had purchased a permit. A replacement permit costs \$2.

The Missouri Conservation Heritage Card, a Missouri Conservation identification number, Social Security number or driver's license number is required to purchase all permits except daily tags.

The Heritage Card, similar in appearance to a credit card, stores registration information on a magnetic strip. The vendor scans the card and keys in the type of permit needed. A printer then issues the permit. The card also can be purchased to replace a lost hunter education card when the certification can be verified through Department records.

The Heritage Card owner will receive a 15 percent discount on selected retail merchandise sold at Conservation Department facilities. Heritage Cards can be purchased for \$2 wherever permits are sold. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

**Note:** The Heritage Card is not a permit.



# Missouri Fishing Permits

Anglers have a variety of permits from which to choose. The permits, unless noted otherwise on the permit itself, are valid from date of purchase through the last day of February 2011. To pursue, take, possess and transport fish, live bait, mussels, clams, crayfish, frogs and turtles, you will need, unless otherwise exempted, one or more of the following:

**Daily Fishing Permit** .....\$7  
For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait. May be purchased by residents and nonresidents for multiple days.

**Resident Fishing Permit** .....\$12  
For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait.

**Resident Hunting and Fishing Permit** .....\$19  
For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, live bait, birds (except turkey), mammals (except deer), and to sell furbearers taken by hunting. See hunting regulations booklets for additional permits needed to hunt migratory birds.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

**Resident National Guard and Reserve Service Small Game Hunting and Fishing Permit**.....\$5

For Missouri residents who are currently, or have in the previous 12 months, been mobilized and served on full-time active military duty in the National Guard (federal status) or reserve forces of the United States to take fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, live bait, birds (except turkey), mammals (except deer), and to sell furbearers taken by hunting.<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
To apply, fill out an application, which is available:

- at [mdc.mo.gov/9213](http://mdc.mo.gov/9213)
- by calling 573/522-4115, ext. 3579
- or by writing to National Guard Permits, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180. Allow 10 days after sending in your application for your permit to be delivered. This permit is not available at vendors or online.

**Nonresident Fishing Permit** .....\$42  
For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait.

**Trout Permit**  
*Age 16 and older* .....\$7  
*Age 15 and younger* .....\$3.50

To possess trout, except in trout parks where a daily trout fishing tag is required. A Trout Permit is required for all winter fishing in trout parks and for all fishing year 'round in Lake Taneycomo upstream from the U.S. Highway 65 bridge. Must also have a fishing permit or qualify for an exemption. See pages 16-20.

**White River Border Lakes Permit** .....\$10  
Allows Missouri and Arkansas residents to pursue, take, possess (except trout) and transport fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait from the other state's portion of the impounded waters of Bull Shoals, Norfork and Table Rock lakes without purchasing a Nonresident Fishing Permit. Must also have a fishing permit or qualify for an exemption issued by the state of residence.

# Lifetime permits show commitment to conservation

For anglers who want to make a long-term commitment to supporting Missouri wildlife, the following permits are available.



Lifetime permits are available to Missouri residents only. Proof of residency, such as a photocopy of a valid Missouri driver's license, is required. For children under the age of 18, the parents' residency will be used. All lifetime permit holders receive a durable plastic permit card to carry in the field and special mailings to keep them updated on seasons, regulation changes and other information. Periodic validation of these permits will be required.

You must apply for lifetime permits by filling out a lifetime permit form, which is available:

- at [mdc.mo.gov/8849](http://mdc.mo.gov/8849)
- by calling 573/522-4115, ext. 3574
- or by writing to Lifetime Permits, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

Please allow 10 days after sending in your application for your permit to be delivered. Lifetime permits are not available at permit vendors or online.

**Resident Lifetime Fishing Permit**—This permit carries the same privileges as the Resident Fishing Permit and the Trout Permit.

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Age 15 and under | \$275 |
| Age 16-29        | \$400 |
| Age 30-39        | \$350 |
| Age 40-59        | \$300 |
| Age 60 and over  | \$35  |

**Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit**—This permit carries the same privileges as the Resident Hunting and Fishing Permit, the Trout Permit, the Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and the Conservation Order Permit. Deer and turkey hunting privileges are not included. A federal duck stamp is required for hunting waterfowl.

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Age 15 and under | \$550 |
| Age 16-29        | \$800 |
| Age 30-39        | \$700 |
| Age 40-59        | \$600 |
| Age 60 and over  | \$70  |

- 1 A federal duck stamp is required for hunting waterfowl.
- 2 A Conservation Order Permit is required to take snow, blue and Ross's geese during the Conservation Order.
- 3 A Migratory Bird Hunting Permit is required for hunting waterfowl, doves, snipe, woodcock and rails.

# Sport Fishing: General Rules

## ■ Methods

You may take fish by pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line and jug line. If you use more than 3 poles (or two poles on the Mississippi River) at any one time, the additional poles must be labeled with your full name and address. Regardless of the method or number of poles, you may not use more than a total of 33 hooks at any one time; except on the Mississippi River the maximum is 50 hooks at one time. If fishing on the Mississippi River and on other Missouri waters at the same time, no more than 50 hooks may be used and not more than 33 on waters other than the Mississippi. Hooks on trotlines must be staged at least 2 feet apart. Hooks on any type of line, as well as the line itself, must be attended every 24 hours or removed.

**New!** Ice fishing tackle, or tip-ups, are considered a pole-and-line method.

Certain species in designated waters may be taken by the use of bow, crossbow, gig, atlatl, snare or by underwater spearfishing, snagging or grabbing. (See page 10 for nongame fish regulations.) However, game fish not hooked in the mouth or jaw must be returned to the water unharmed immediately, except paddlefish legally taken during the paddlefish snagging season. All of the above methods of taking fish are considered sport fishing methods. See pages 44-45 for method definitions.

No one may use any explosive, poison, chemical or electrical equipment to kill or stupefy fish. Such material or equipment may not even be possessed on waters of the state or adjacent banks. Spearguns may not be possessed on unimpounded waters or adjacent banks, and spears may not be propelled by explosives. It also is illegal to attempt to take fish by hand, with or without a hook, and to intentionally leave or abandon any commonly edible portion of any fish.

Fish traps, including slat and wire ones, may not be possessed on waters in Missouri or on adjacent banks. However, live-bait traps are allowed. See live-bait section on page 12.

**Labels Required:** You must place a tag of a durable material with your full name and address on live-bait traps, trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, bank lines, jug lines and live boxes.

**Use of Lights:** As an aid to fishing methods, an artificial light may be used only above the water surface. However, while fishing by pole and line only, underwater lights may be used to attract fish.

## ■ Daily and Possession Limits

You may possess no more than the daily limit of any given species while you are on waters, or on the banks of waters, where daily limits for those species apply. **Where only catch-and-release fishing is allowed, fish must be returned unharmed immediately to the water after being caught.** See culling regulations on page 40.

**The possession limit is twice the statewide daily limit.** See page 8. Fish you take and possess must be kept separate or distinctly identifiable from fish taken



## Jug Line Regulations

Anchored jug lines may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours. The anchor must be sufficient to render a jug immobile so that wind, current or large fish will not move the jug. A line that does not meet this standard is considered unanchored. Under normal fishing conditions, a 2-pound weight for a 2-liter soda bottle would be an appropriate anchor. Use a heavier weight to anchor larger floats or during times of high wind and current.

Keeping track of your unanchored jug lines reduces catfish waste and jug line litter. Unanchored jug lines in streams must be personally attended at all times. **New!** Unanchored jug lines in lakes must be personally attended at least one time per hour. Anglers who cannot personally attend their jug lines can still enjoy jug fishing by using anchors. Personally attended means that the angler whose name is labeled on the jug line:

- is in visual sight of and close proximity to the jug line
- can see the jug line bob and move when a fish is hooked and can retrieve it
- can see and talk to a conservation agent checking the line
- can get the attention of or deter anyone who is tampering with the jug line.

by another person. If you are away from your catch, the device holding the fish must be plainly labeled with your full name and address.

### ■ Length Limits

- ✓ A minimum length limit means that fish below a designated length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.
- ✓ A slot length limit or protected length range means that fish within a designated length range must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.
- ✓ A maximum length limit means that fish above a designated length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.

See page 27 for details on how to measure fish.

Regardless of where taken, fish that are not of a legal length cannot be possessed on the waters or banks where length limits apply. The head and tail must remain attached to the fish while you are fishing on waters where length limits apply.

### ■ Transportation

The fish you catch in Missouri, or elsewhere, may be possessed and transported as your personal baggage, if you have the required permit. Fish may be stored, preserved or refrigerated only at your home, camp, place of lodging or in a commercial establishment. Stored fish must be labeled with your full name, address, permit number, species of fish and the date placed in storage. Fish taken in another state by methods not permitted in Missouri may not be possessed on waters of the state.

# Game Fish

The fish species listed below may be pursued and taken by pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line and jug line. Paddlefish may be taken by snagging and grabbing from March 15 to April 30. See page 37 for special regulations for paddlefish on the Mississippi River. Game fish are defined on page 44.

Seasons and limits apply statewide unless the body of water has special regulations as listed on pages 16-20 and 28-40 or if the area is posted with special regulations.

| Species  |                                 | Open Season                         | Daily Limit     | Length Limit   |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Black bass<br>(largemouth, smallmouth, spotted/<br>Kentucky) | From impoundments               | all year                            | 6 <sup>1</sup>  | none <sup>1</sup>  |
|  | From Ozark streams <sup>2</sup> | May 22, 2010-<br>Feb. 28, 2011      |                 | 12" minimum  |
|  | From other streams <sup>2</sup> | all year                            |                 | 12" minimum  |
| Catfish  | Channel                         | all year                            | 10 <sup>1</sup> | none <sup>1</sup>  |
|  | Blue                            | all year                            | 5 <sup>1</sup>  | none <sup>1</sup>  |
|  | Flathead                        | all year                            | 5 <sup>1</sup>  | none <sup>1</sup>  |
| Crappie (black & white)                                      |                                 | all year                            | 30 <sup>1</sup> | none <sup>1</sup>  |
| Muskellunge  |                                 | all year                            | 1 <sup>6</sup>  | 36" minimum <sup>1</sup>   |
| Northern pike  |                                 | all year                            | 1 <sup>6</sup>  | none   |
| Paddlefish (spoonbill) <sup>3</sup>                          |                                 | March 15 -<br>April 30 <sup>1</sup> | 2 <sup>1</sup>  | 24" minimum <sup>1</sup>   |
| Pickerel (chain & grass)                                     |                                 | all year                            | 6               | none   |
| Goggle-eye (rock bass) & warmouth                            |                                 | all year                            | 15              | none <sup>1</sup>  |
| Shovelnose sturgeon <sup>3,4</sup>                           |                                 | all year <sup>1</sup>               | 10 <sup>1</sup> | 30" maximum  |
| Trout  |                                 | all year                            | 4 <sup>1</sup>  | Rainbow:<br>none <sup>1</sup><br><br>Brown:<br>15" minimum<br>in streams |
| Walleye & sauger   |                                 | all year <sup>5</sup>               | 4 <sup>1</sup>  | 15" minimum <sup>1</sup>   |
| White, yellow & striped bass & their hybrids                 |                                 | all year                            | 15 <sup>1</sup> | no more than<br>4 longer than<br>18" <sup>1</sup>                        |

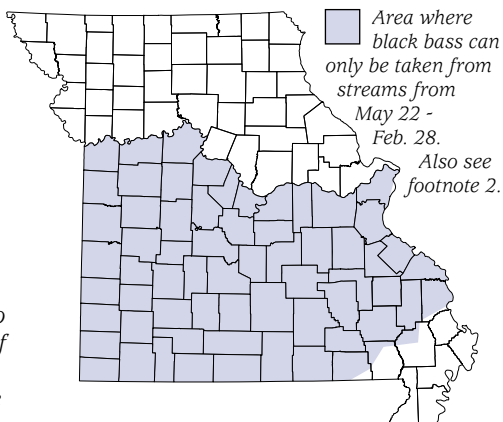
## Conservation Areas Regulations Available Online

Before traveling to your favorite conservation area to fish, check the online regulations database at [mdc.mo.gov/atlas](http://mdc.mo.gov/atlas).

## Footnotes for chart on page 8

<sup>1</sup> Applies on all waters, except those listed on pages 16-20 and 28-40 and on areas that are posted with special regulations.

<sup>2</sup> Black bass fishing and possession is open year 'round on the Mississippi River, all waters north of the south bank of the Missouri River, the St. Francis River downstream from Wappapello Dam and on streams in that portion of southeast Missouri bounded by a line from Cape Girardeau following Missouri highways 74 and 25, U.S. highways 60, 67 and 160, and the west bank of the Little Black River to the Arkansas state line. In the rest of the state referred to as the Ozarks, black bass from streams may not be possessed from March 1-May 21.



<sup>3</sup> Extracted paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon eggs may not be possessed while on waters of the state or adjacent banks, and may not be transported. They also may not be bought, sold or offered for sale.

<sup>4</sup> Shovelnose sturgeon must remain intact while on waters of the state or adjacent banks.

<sup>5</sup> From Feb. 20 through April 14, walleye and sauger can be taken and possessed only between 1/2 hour before sunrise and 1/2 hour after sunset in the unimpounded portions of all streams, except the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. **To calculate the sunrise and sunset times in your area, see the U.S. Naval Observatory website: [aa.usno.navy.mil](http://aa.usno.navy.mil) or pick up a copy of the Wildlife Code of Missouri, which is available at permit vendors.**

<sup>6</sup> Daily limit is 1 muskellunge or 1 northern pike.



## Help a new angler discover the fun of fishing.

Along with the fish, you'll catch some priceless memories.

Visit [www.MissouriConservation.org](http://www.MissouriConservation.org) and search "Take Me Fishing."

# Nongame Fish

Nongame fish include bluegill, green sunfish, carp, carpsuckers, suckers, buffalo, drum, gar and all other species other than those defined as game fish or listed as endangered. Nongame fish may be taken as described in the chart. See Special Area Regulations on pages 28-40 for restrictions on certain waters.

| Method   | Season   | Time <sup>6</sup>       | Location  | Daily limit <sup>1</sup> |
|--|--|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Pole & line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line | all year   | 24 hours                | streams and impounded waters  | 50 <sup>1,2</sup>        |
| Underwater spear   | all year   | sunrise to sunset       | impounded waters and temporary overflow of a river or ditch                               |                          |
| Bow  | April 1-Jan. 31                                      | 24 hours                | impounded waters  | 20 <sup>1,2</sup>        |
|  | Feb. 1-March 31                                      | sunrise to midnight     | impounded waters  |                          |
|  | all year   | sunrise to midnight     | streams, except portions of Missouri, Mississippi, St. Francis rivers (see pages 37 & 39) |                          |
|  |  | <b>New!</b><br>24 hours | portions of Missouri, Mississippi & St. Francis rivers (see pages 37 & 39)                |                          |
|  |  | sunrise to sunset       | temporary overflow of a river or ditch  |                          |
| Crossbow   | all year   | sunrise to sunset       | impounded waters and temporary overflow of a river or ditch                               |                          |
| Gig, atlatl <sup>5</sup>   | Sept. 15-Jan. 31                                     | sunrise to midnight     | streams and impounded waters  |                          |
|  | Feb. 1-Sept. 14                                      | sunrise to sunset       | impounded waters  |                          |
|  | all year   | sunrise to sunset       | temporary overflow of a river or ditch  |                          |
| Snagging, grabbing <sup>5</sup>                                  | March 15- May 15<br>Sept. 15- Jan. 31 <sup>3,4</sup> | 24 hours                | streams and impounded waters  |                          |
|  | all year   | sunrise to sunset       | temporary overflow of a river or ditch  |                          |
| Snaring <sup>5</sup>   | March 15- May 15<br>Sept. 15- Jan. 31 <sup>3,4</sup> | 24 hours                | streams and impounded waters  |                          |

- ✓ There is no limit on goldfish and bighead, common, grass and silver carp.
- ✓ **New!** Bighead carp, common carp, grass carp and silver carp can be taken by handnet. Those that jump from the water into a boat or on land may also be taken and possessed in any number.
- ✓ Bowfin must remain whole and intact while on state waters or adjacent banks.

### Footnotes for chart on page 10

<sup>1</sup>The possession limit is twice the daily limit, except the Mississippi River which has a daily and possession limit of 100. Goldfish, bighead carp, common carp, grass carp and silver carp may be possessed in any numbers and do not count in the daily or possession limit.

<sup>2</sup>The daily limit is the combined total of all species, except that goldfish, bighead carp, common carp, grass carp and silver carp may be possessed in any numbers and do not count in the daily or possession limit. On the Current River from Cedar Grove downstream to Arkansas line, only 5 hogsuckers may be included in a daily limit.

<sup>3</sup>In the Osage River downstream from U.S. Highway 54 to the Missouri River and in the Lake of the Ozarks and Truman Lake, nongame fish may be taken by snagging, snaring and grabbing from March 15 through April 30.

<sup>4</sup>On the Mississippi River, nongame fish may be taken by snagging, snaring and grabbing from March 15 through May 15 and Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.

<sup>5</sup>On Lake of the Ozarks and its tributaries, Osage River below U.S. Highway 54 and Truman Lake and its tributaries, gigging, snaring and snagging for any species is not allowed after taking and possessing the daily limit of 2 paddlefish.

<sup>6</sup>For sunrise and sunset tables, go to [aa.usno.navy.mil](http://aa.usno.navy.mil) or pick up a copy of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* where permits are sold.

## Giggers, Anglers: Protect Hellbenders

Hellbenders are harmless, nonpoisonous aquatic salamanders that live in clear, swift-flowing rivers and streams throughout the Ozarks. These large amphibians, 11-20 inches long, live under large flat rocks, venturing out at night to feed. Ninety percent of hellbenders' diet is crayfish, but occasionally they feed on minnows and earthworms.

Due to declines in hellbender numbers, they are protected and cannot be taken from the wild or killed.

If you catch one on hook and line, release it unharmed by removing the hook or simply cutting the line.

If you gig fish or frogs, remember it is illegal to gig hellbenders.

Thank you for helping to protect this unique Ozark amphibian, which is part of our natural heritage. Report sighting by calling 573/522-4115, ext. 3201.



# Live Bait

Live bait includes: crayfish, freshwater shrimp, southern leopard frogs, plains leopard frogs, cricket frogs and nongame fish. Bullfrogs and green frogs taken under season limits and methods listed on page 14 also may be used as bait.

- ✓ Bighead carp and silver carp may not be used as live bait but may be used as dead or cut bait.
- ✓ Live bait taken from public waters of Missouri may not be sold or transported from the state.
- ✓ Game fish or their parts may not be used as bait.

# Don't Dump Bait!

**It is illegal to dump bait into Missouri waters.**

**Throw unused bait in the trash.**  
Unwanted animals and plants can invade local water, damage habitat and ruin your fishing.

To learn more about protecting Missouri's streams, rivers and lakes from invasive species, visit [www.missouriconservation.org](http://www.missouriconservation.org).



Serving nature and you



Sea Grant  
Great Lakes Network  
[www.sgnis.org](http://www.sgnis.org)



Image courtesy of  
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant.

W00003

■ **Methods:** Live bait may be taken by trap, dip net, throw net, pole and line or seine.

- ✓ Live-bait traps must have a throat opening not more than 1½ inches in any dimension, and must be labeled with your full name and address.
- ✓ Traps must be removed if they cannot be checked at least once every 24 hours.
- ✓ Seines must not be more than 20 feet long and 4 feet deep, with a mesh of not more than ½ inch bar measure.
- ✓ Live bait, except fish, may be taken by hand.
- ✓ Crayfish also may be taken by trap with an opening not to exceed 1½ inches by 18 inches.

## ■ Length Limits:

- ✓ All bluegill, green sunfish and bullheads more than 5 inches long and other species of nongame fish more than 12 inches long must be returned to the water immediately after being caught by any of the methods listed above except pole and line. The daily limits for nongame fish apply to the large fish taken by pole and line.
- ✓ There is no length limit on bighead carp, common carp, gizzard shad, goldfish, grass carp and silver carp when used as bait.

■ **Seasons:** Live bait may be taken throughout the year.

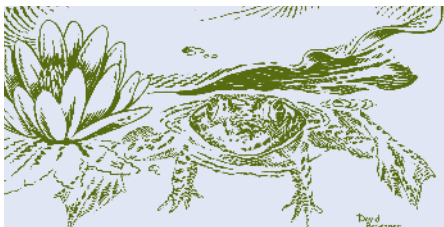


### ■ Daily Limit:

- ✓ A combined total of 150 crayfish, freshwater shrimp and non-game fish
- ✓ 5 each of southern leopard frog, plains leopard frog and cricket frog
- ✓ A combined total of 8 bullfrogs and green frogs. Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken only from sunset June 30 through Oct. 31. See page 14.
- ✓ Any number of goldfish and bighead, common, grass and silver carp
- ✓ Any number of live bait, when purchased or obtained from a source other than the waters of the state or a licensed commercial fisherman; must be species on the Approved Aquatic Species List and angler must carry a dated receipt for the fish

### ■ Other species that may be used as bait include:

- ✓ Nongame fish of any size, except bowfin, if taken according to the methods and seasons listed on page 10
- ✓ Mussels and clams legally taken by sport fish methods



## Frogs included as live bait



*Southern leopard frog*



*Plains leopard frog*



*Blanchards cricket frog*



*Bullfrog*



*Green frog*

## Bullfrogs & Green Frogs

■ **Methods:** Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken by hand, handnet, atlatl, gig, bow, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line, snagging, snaring, grabbing or pole and line. An artificial light may be used.

■ **Season:** Sunset June 30 through Oct. 31.

**Note:** On June 30, 2010, sunset is at 8:37 p.m. Daylight-Saving Time in Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For calculating other locations, go to [aa.usno.navy.mil](http://aa.usno.navy.mil). This information can also be found in the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, which is available at permit vendors.

■ **Daily Limit:** 8, combined total of both species

## Mussels and Clams

■ **Methods and Season:** May be taken by hand, handnet or pole and line throughout the year.

■ **Daily Limit:** 5, combined total of all species (except Asiatic clams, which may be taken and possessed in any number). This limit applies to live and dead animals. Two shell halves (valves) shall be considered 1 mussel or clam.

Mussels listed in the *Missouri Species and Communities of Conservation Concern Checklist* may not be taken or possessed. The checklist is online at [mdc.mo.gov/nathis/endangered/](http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/endangered/).

## Turtles

■ **Methods:** Common snapping turtles and soft-shelled turtles may be taken by hand, handnet, bow, crossbow, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line, snagging, snaring, grabbing or pole and line. Shooting turtles with firearms is prohibited.

■ **Seasons:** Common snapping turtles throughout the year; soft-shelled turtles from July 1 through Dec. 31

**Note:** *There is NO open season on the rare alligator snapping turtle.*

■ **Daily Limit:** 5 common snapping turtles; 5 softshell turtles

## Report Stream Pollution

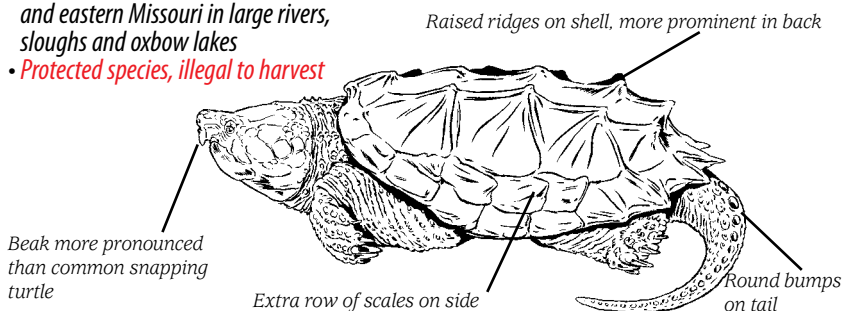
If you find dead fish, leaking barrels of unknown chemicals, municipal or livestock lagoons discharging poorly treated effluent, broken pipelines or unauthorized dredging or bulldozing polluting a stream, report it as soon as possible to the Department of Natural Resources' 24-hour environmental emergency response number (573/634-2436).



# Know the differences between snapping turtles

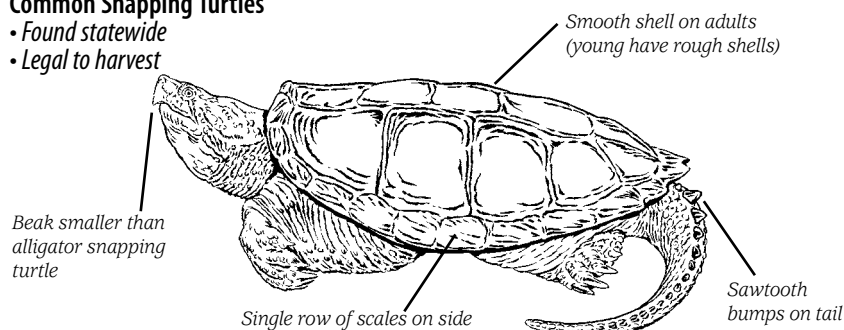
## Alligator Snapping Turtles

- Found in southern, southeastern and eastern Missouri in large rivers, sloughs and oxbow lakes
- **Protected species, illegal to harvest**



## Common Snapping Turtles

- Found statewide
- Legal to harvest



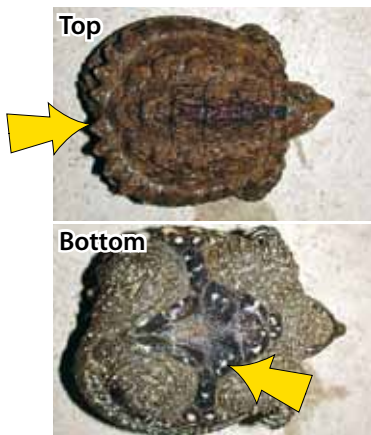
## Alligator Snapping Turtle Hatchling

- Typically orange-brown color
- No white spots on shell



## Common Snapping Turtle Hatchling

- Gray-brown color
- White spots on edge and bottom of shell



# Trout Fishing

Missouri has several types of trout fishing areas, each with its own special rules. In addition to a fishing permit, you will need a trout permit to possess trout on all waters outside of the trout parks and a daily tag while fishing in the trout parks. Unless otherwise indicated, the season is open all year.

## ■ Trout Parks

**Maramec Spring Park, Bennett Spring State Park, Montauk State Park and Roaring River State Park** are open and stocked daily from March 1 through Oct. 31. Anglers need a fishing permit, unless exempt, as well as a daily trout tag. The daily trout tag is \$3 for adults and \$2 for those 15 and younger. **Note:** At Roaring River State Park, a daily tag or a trout permit may be used for fishing from the first bridge below the old dam in Zone 3 to the downstream park boundary.

The daily limit is 4, and you must stop fishing for any species after having 4 trout in possession. Area regulations, fishing methods and zones vary. Ask for details when you purchase your tag.

Catch-and-release fishing only is available from Nov. 12, 2010, through Feb. 14, 2011. Maramec Spring Park is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The three state parks are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday through Monday. A fishing permit, unless exempt, and a trout permit are required. Only flies may be used.

## ■ Trout Management Categories for Ozark Streams

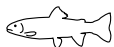
Approximately 120 miles of Ozark streams provide quality trout angling. Below are the three types of management provided in these areas. See pages 18-20 for locations and regulations.



**Blue Ribbon Trout Areas** include parts of large, cold rivers with excellent trout habitat and smaller streams that support naturally reproducing rainbow trout. Harvest is limited to maintain the maximum density of adult trout, create excellent catch-and-release fishing and provide the occasional chance to harvest a trophy. These areas on the Current and North Fork of the White rivers are stocked with brown trout, and the Eleven Point River is stocked with rainbows.



**Red Ribbon Trout Areas** have high-quality habitat stocked primarily with browns. They provide catch-and-release fishing and a chance to harvest quality-size trout.



**White Ribbon Trout Areas** are coldwater streams capable of supporting trout populations year 'round. All receive periodic stockings of rainbow trout, and some also receive brown trout. They provide great opportunities for catching and harvesting trout and the occasional chance to harvest a large trout.



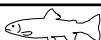


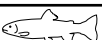

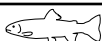
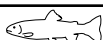
## ■ Winter Trout Fishing Areas

Rainbow trout are stocked in the winter beginning in early November in the lakes listed in the following chart. Fishing is permitted year 'round during normal park or area hours.

*Trout may be taken by pole and line using all types of lures and baits under statewide limits, except during the dates listed below. Trout permits are required if trout are kept.*

| <b><i>Kansas City Area</i></b>  |                 |   |
|---|-----------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alex George Lake in Jackson County</li> <li>• Chaumiere Lake in Kansas City</li> <li>• Coot and Plover lakes at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area</li> </ul>  | year 'round     | Statewide methods and limits  |
| <b><i>St. Louis Area</i></b>  |                 |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakes 22, 23, 24 at August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area</li> </ul>  | year 'round     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must stop fishing for all species after having 4 trout in possession.</li> </ul>   |
|   | Nov. 1–Jan. 31  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only 1 pole may be used.</li> <li>• Use of chum is prohibited.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carondelet Park Boathouse Lake in St. Louis</li> <li>• January-Wabash Park Lake in Ferguson</li> <li>• Suson Park Lakes 1, 2, 3 in St. Louis County</li> <li>• Vlasik Park Lake in Ballwin</li> <li>• O'Fallon Park Lake in St. Louis</li> </ul>                                       | year 'round     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must stop fishing for all species after having 4 trout in possession.</li> </ul>   |
|   | Nov. 1–Jan. 31  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only 1 pole may be used.</li> <li>• Use of chum is prohibited.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jefferson Lake in St. Louis</li> <li>• Koenenman Park Lake in Jennings</li> <li>• Lakes 21, 28 at August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area</li> <li>• Tilles Park Lake in St. Louis County</li> <li>• Walker Lake in Kirkwood</li> <li>• Wild Acres Park Lake in Overland</li> </ul> | Nov. 1–Jan. 31  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch &amp; release only for trout</li> <li>• Flies, artificial lures and unscented soft plastic baits only</li> <li>• Only 1 pole may be used.</li> <li>• Use of chum is prohibited.</li> </ul> |
|   | Feb. 1–Oct. 31  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must stop fishing for all species after having 4 trout in possession.</li> </ul>   |
| <b><i>Other Cities around the State</i></b>   |                 |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McKay Park Lake in Jefferson City</li> <li>• Kiwanis Lake in Mexico</li> <li>• Liberty Park Pond in Sedalia</li> <li>• Spur Pond in Kirksville</li> </ul>  | Nov. 1–Jan. 31  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch &amp; release only for trout</li> <li>• Flies, artificial lures and unscented soft plastic baits only</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotary Lake in Jackson</li> </ul>  | Nov. 1–Jan. 31  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch &amp; release only for trout</li> <li>• Flies, artificial lures and unscented soft plastic baits only</li> <li>• Only 1 pole may be used.</li> <li>• Use of chum is prohibited.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyday Pond at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph</li> </ul>  | Oct. 16–Jan. 31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch &amp; release only for all species including trout</li> </ul>  |
|   | Nov. 1–Jan. 31  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flies, artificial lures and unscented soft plastic baits only</li> </ul>   |

# Trout Fishing in Ozark Streams and Lakes







| Area name & type<br>Directions & total miles  | County              | Length<br>Limit                              | Daily<br>Limit  | Authorized<br>Lures   |
|---|---------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Barren Fork Creek</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>County Road A-D to its junction<br>with Sinking Creek – 3.2 miles  | Shannon             | At least 18"                                 | 1   | Artificial<br>lures and<br>flies                                |
| <b>Blue Springs Creek</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>From Blue Springs to its junction<br>with Meramec River – 4 miles                                       | Crawford            | At least 18"                                 | 1   | Artificial<br>lures and<br>flies                                |
| <b>Capps Creek</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>4 miles upstream from its<br>junction with Shoal Creek   | Barry &<br>Newton   | Rainbows:<br>none<br>Browns:<br>at least 15" | 4   | All   |
| <b>Crane Creek</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>Upstream from Quail Spur Road<br>crossing on Stone County Road<br>13-195 – 8 miles                             | Stone &<br>Lawrence | At least 18"                                 | 1   | Artificial<br>lures and<br>flies                                |
| <b>Current River</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>River and its tributaries from<br>lower boundary of Montauk<br>State Park to Cedar Grove Bridge<br>– 9 miles | Dent                | At least 18"                                 | 1   | Artificial<br>lures and<br>flies                                |
| <b>Current River</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>Downstream from Cedar Grove<br>Bridge crossing – 7.7 miles   | Dent                | Rainbows:<br>none<br>Browns:<br>at least 15" | 4   | All   |
| <b>Eleven Point River</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>Greer Spring Branch junction to<br>Turner Mill Access – 5.5 miles                                       | Oregon              | At least 18"                                 | 1   | Artificial<br>lures and<br>flies                                |
| <b>Eleven Point River</b> <br>Downstream from Turner Mill<br>Access – 14.2 miles   | Oregon              | None   | 4   | All   |
| <b>Hickory Creek</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>From Highway 86 bridge to<br>Shoal Creek – 2.7 miles   | Newton              | Rainbows:<br>none<br>Browns:<br>at least 15" | 4<br>(from<br>March<br>1-Oct.<br>31)<br>1-Oct.<br>31) | All (from<br>March 1-Oct.<br>31)                                |
|   |                     | Catch and<br>release                         | 0<br>(from<br>Nov. 1<br>- Feb.<br>28)                 | Artificial<br>lures and<br>flies only<br>from Nov.<br>1-Feb. 28 |

Definitions of Blue, Red and White Ribbon Trout Management  
Areas are on page 16.





**Don't trespass! Many trout streams flow through private land.  
Before entering, ask landowners for permission.**

| <b>Area name &amp; type<br/>Directions &amp; total miles</b>   | <b>County</b>     | <b>Length<br/>Limit</b>  | <b>Daily<br/>Limit</b> | <b>Authorized<br/>Lures</b> |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Lake Taneycomo &amp; its tributaries</b> <sup>1,2,3</sup><br>From the closed zone 760 feet below Table Rock Dam to the mouth of Fall Creek – 3 miles  | Taney             | Rainbows:<br>less than 12”<br>or greater than 20”<br>Browns:<br>at least 20” | 4<br>(only 1 brown)    | Artificial lures and flies  |
| <b>Lake Taneycomo</b> <sup>1,2,4</sup><br>Mouth of Fall Creek to Powersite Dam and tributaries to Lake Taneycomo – 19.7 miles  | Taney             | Rainbows:<br>none<br>Browns:<br>at least 20”                                 | 4<br>(only 1 brown)    | All                         |
| <b>Little Piney Creek</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>From Phelps County line in Sections 9 and 16 of T35N, R8W, including Piney Spring Branch and Lane Spring Branch to Milldam Hollow Access – 9.9 miles | Phelps            | At least 18”   | 1                      | Artificial lures and flies  |
| <b>Little Piney Creek</b> <br>Downstream of Milldam Hollow Access – 3.7 miles   | Phelps            | Rainbows:<br>none<br>Browns:<br>at least 15”                                 | 4                      | All                         |
| <b>Meramec River</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>From Highway 8 bridge to Scott's Ford and in Dry Fork Creek from the elevated cable crossing to its confluence with the Meramec River – 8.2 miles         | Phelps & Crawford | At least 15”   | 2                      | Artificial lures and flies  |
| <b>Mill Creek</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>Yelton Spring to its junction with Little Piney Creek including Wilkins Spring and spring branch – 7.7 miles   | Phelps            | At least 18”   | 1                      | Artificial lures and flies  |
| <b>Niangua River</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>From Bennett Spring Branch to Prosperine Access – 11.5 miles of stocked stream  | Dallas            | Rainbows:<br>none<br>Browns:<br>at least 15”                                 | 4                      | All                         |
| <b>North Fork, White River</b> <sup>1</sup> <br>Upper outlet of Rainbow Spring to Patrick Bridge – 8.6 miles  | Ozark             | At least 18”   | 1                      | Artificial lures and flies  |







<sup>1</sup> While on any waters with length limits, all trout you possess must be kept with head, tail and skin intact.

<sup>2</sup> Lake Taneycomo is stocked monthly with rainbow trout and annually with brown trout.

<sup>3</sup> Must also have trout permit to fish for any species.

<sup>4</sup> Must also have trout permit upstream of U.S. Highway 65 bridge to fish for any species.

# More Trout Fishing in Ozark Streams and Lakes

| Area name & type<br>Directions & total miles   | County  | Length<br>Limit                              | Daily<br>Limit            | Authorized<br>Lures   |
|--|---------|--|---------------------------|---|
| <b>North Fork, White River</b>  <sup>1</sup><br>Unimpounded river and its tributaries from Patrick Bridge to Norfork Lake – 7.0 miles   | Ozark   | At least 15"                                 | 2                         | All   |
| <b>Roaring River</b>  <sup>1</sup><br>From the lower boundary of Roaring River State Park to Table Rock Lake – 4 miles  | Barry   | Rainbows:<br>none<br>Browns:<br>at least 15" | 4                         | All   |
| <b>Roubidoux Creek</b>  <sup>1</sup><br>Upstream of the elevated utility cable crossing approximately ½ mile below Business I-44 bridge in Waynesville – 0.9 miles                                      | Pulaski | Rainbows:<br>none<br>Browns:<br>at least 15" | 4                         | All   |
| <b>Roubidoux Creek</b>  <sup>1</sup><br>Downstream of the elevated utility cable crossing about 0.5 mile below Business I-44 bridge in Waynesville to its junction with the Gasconade River – 2.2 miles | Pulaski | At least 15"                                 | 2                         | Artificial lures and flies                                    |
| <b>Spring Creek</b>  <sup>1</sup><br>Relfe Spring to its junction with Big Piney River – 6.2 miles  | Phelps  | At least 18"                                 | 1                         | Artificial lures and flies                                    |
| <b>Stone Mill Spring</b>  <sup>1</sup><br>Entire spring branch – 0.3 mile   | Pulaski | Rainbows:<br>none<br>Browns:at<br>least 15"  | 4 (from March 1— Oct. 31) | All (from March 1— Oct. 31)                                   |
|  |         | Catch and release                            | 0 (from Nov. 1— Feb. 28)  | Artificial lures and flies (from Nov. 1—Feb. 28 or as posted) |

<sup>1</sup> While on any waters with length limits, all trout you possess must be kept with head, tail and skin intact.

## Fishing Hotspots

Wondering where to fish? Find out what to expect at more than 100 fishing areas based on the results of fish population monitoring. Find the information online at [mdc.mo.gov/fish/prospects](http://mdc.mo.gov/fish/prospects) or get a printed copy of the annual report by sending an e-mail to [pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov) or by writing to “Fishing Prospects,” Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

# Reciprocal Fishing Privileges

Fishing privileges on boundary waters common to Missouri and an adjoining state are mutually agreed upon by the two states. It is your responsibility to know which state you are fishing in and the regulations that apply to the waters that you are fishing. You must be licensed in Missouri to fish in Missouri tributaries of the Mississippi, Missouri and St. Francis rivers. You may not fish in the tributaries of these rivers in a state where you are not licensed.

| Properly licensed or exempted anglers from Missouri:   | Missouri River (Kansas, Nebraska) | Mississippi River (Illinois, Kentucky*, Tennessee) | St. Francis River (Arkansas) | Des Moines River (Iowa) |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| May fish in the flowing waters of either state.  | ✓                                 | ✓  | ✓                            | ✓                       |
| May fish in either state's adjacent backwaters and shared oxbow lakes                                      | ✓                                 | ✓*   |                              | ✓                       |
| May fish from the bank or attach to the bank of either state.  | ✓                                 | ✓*   |                              |                         |
| Must abide by the regulations of the state in which you are fishing, regardless of where you are licensed. | ✓                                 | ✓  |                              | ✓                       |
| Must abide by the regulations of the state where you are licensed, regardless of where you are fishing.    |                                   |  | ✓                            |                         |
| Must abide by the most restrictive of the two states' regulations when fishing the other state's waters.   | ✓                                 | ✓  |                              | ✓                       |

*\* For the purposes of these reciprocal fishing privileges with Kentucky, the Mississippi River is defined as the main channel and immediate side or secondary channels or chutes. It does not include oxbow or floodplain lakes, or backwaters that extend onto the floodplain or up tributaries when the river level exceeds 33 feet at the Cairo, Ill., gauging station.*

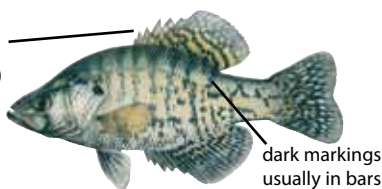
For more information on adjacent states' regulations and permits, contact:

- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission: 800/364-4263
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources: 217/782-6302
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources: 515/281-5918
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks: 620/672-5911
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources: 800/858-1549
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission: 402/471-0641
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency: 615/781-6500

# Do You Know the Fishes of Missouri?

## White crappie

5 or 6 dorsal fin spines  
(Black crappie have 7  
or 8 dorsal fin spines)



dark markings  
usually in bars

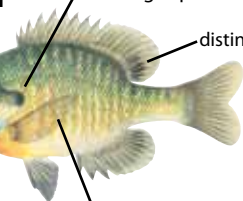
## Bluegill

distinct ear flap  
without border  
or orange spot

distinct blotch

very  
small  
mouth

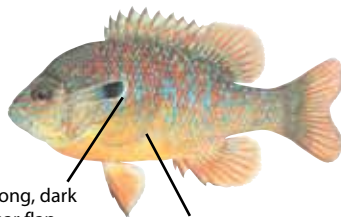
long, pointed fin



## Longear sunfish

long, dark  
ear flap

rounded fin



## Goggle-eye (Rock bass)

usually no  
dark blotch

tail fin mottled

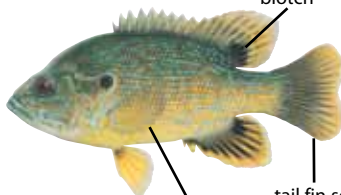


## Green sunfish

usually dark  
blotch

rounded fin

tail fin solid



## Channel catfish

tail fin forked

upper jaw extends  
beyond lower jaw

anal fin margin rounded  
with 24-29 rays



## Flathead catfish

upper fin lighter  
than remainder of fin

lower jaw extends  
beyond upper jaw

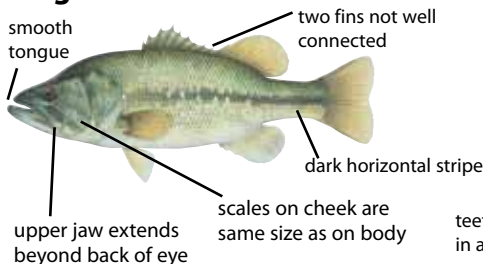
tail fin  
square



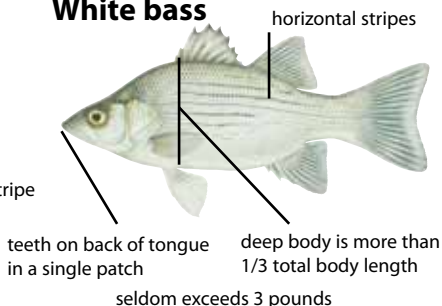
*Joseph R. Tomelleri illustrations*

It is important to correctly identify the fish you catch so you can abide by the seasons, daily limits, length limits and other regulations.

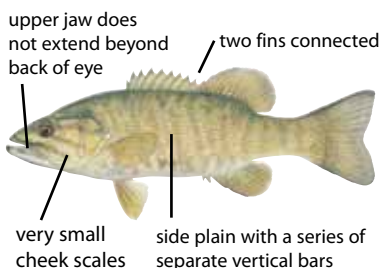
## Largemouth bass



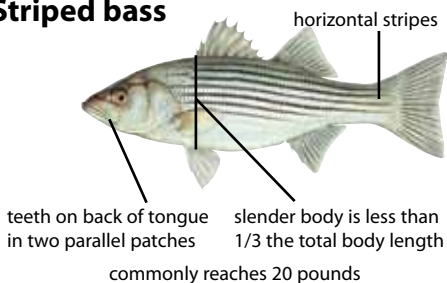
## White bass



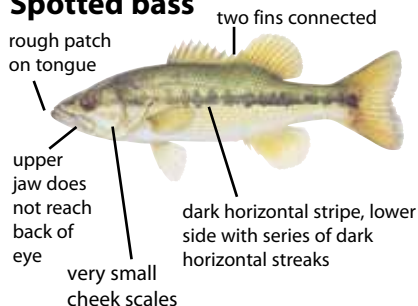
## Smallmouth bass



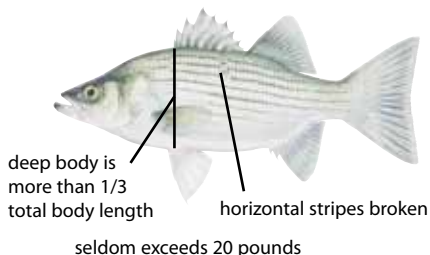
## Striped bass



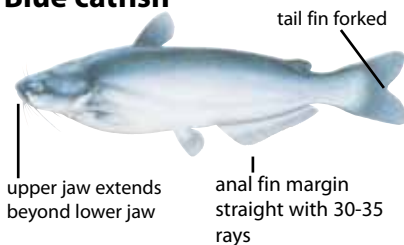
## Spotted bass



## White bass-striped bass hybrid



## Blue catfish



## Black bullhead

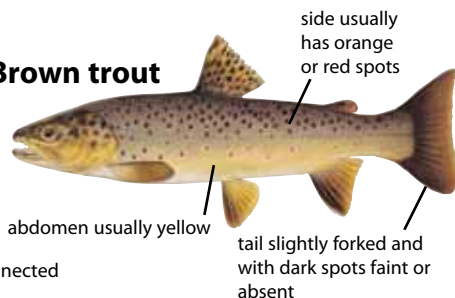


When in doubt about the identity or legal length, play it safe and return the fish to the water unharmed immediately.

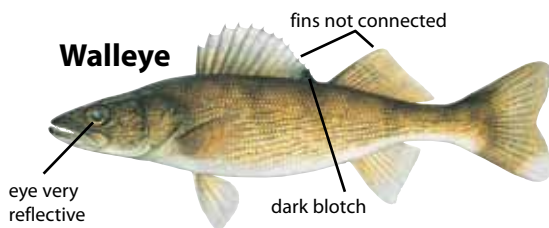
## Rainbow trout



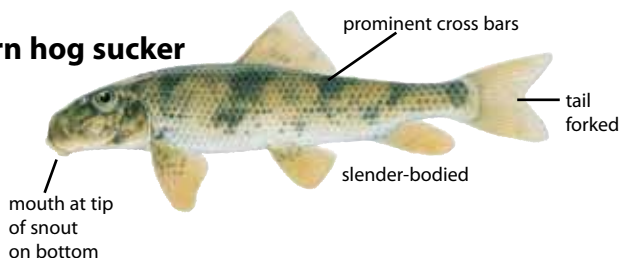
## Brown trout



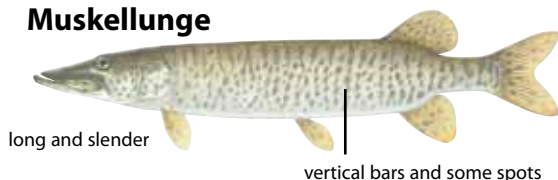
## Walleye



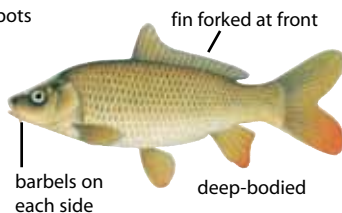
## Northern hog sucker



## Muskellunge



## Common carp

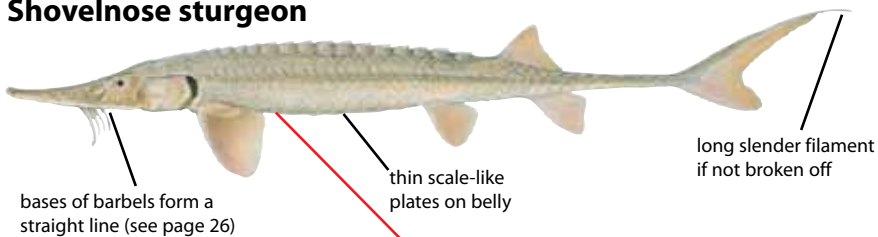


*Joseph R. Tomelleri illustrations*

It is important to correctly identify the fish you catch so you can abide by the seasons, daily limits, length limits and other regulations.

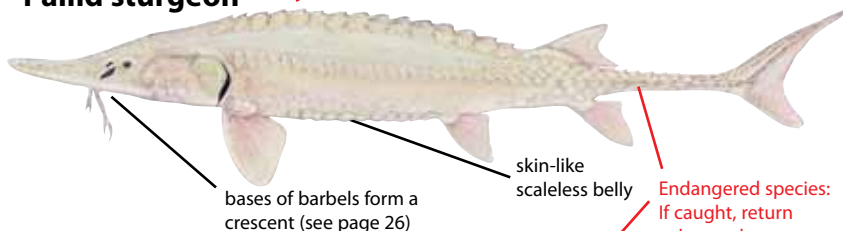


## Shovelnose sturgeon



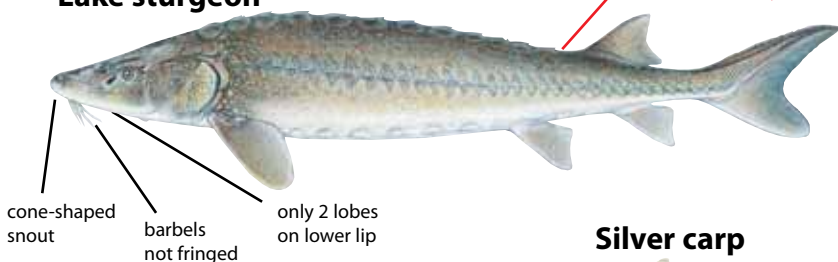
Shovelnose sturgeon and endangered pallid sturgeon are similar. See identification tips on page 26.

## Pallid sturgeon

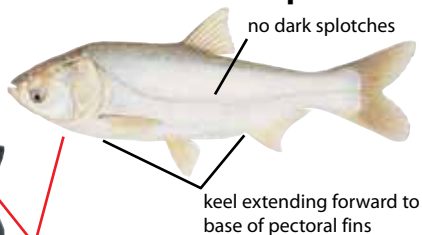


Endangered species: If caught, return unharmed to water immediately.

## Lake sturgeon

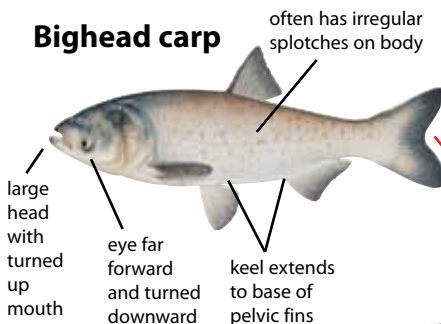


## Silver carp



Non-native species: May not be used as live bait but may be used as dead or cut bait.

## Bighead carp



## Grass carp



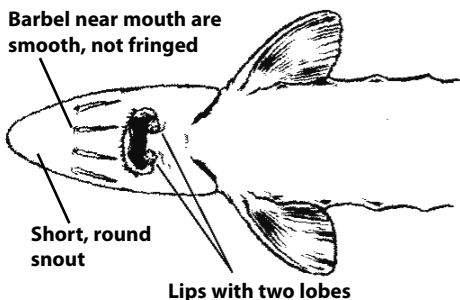
When in doubt about the identity or legal length, play it safe and return the fish to the water unharmed immediately.

# How to Identify Sturgeon

There are three species of sturgeon in Missouri. The pallid and lake sturgeon are endangered and need to be protected. Use the information listed below to learn the key differences so you can always return pallid and lake sturgeon unharmed to the water immediately.

## Endangered lake sturgeon

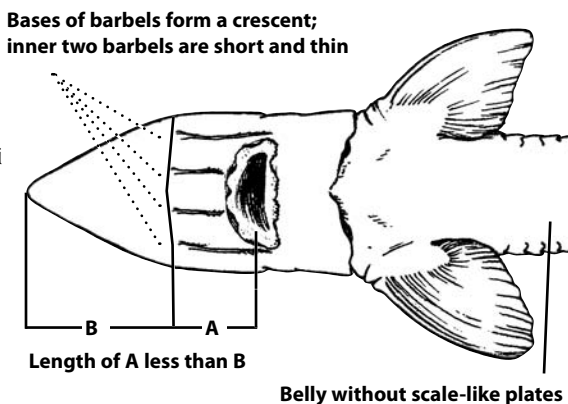
- Sides and back range from dark slate to light brown or yellowish-olive; white belly
- Found throughout Missouri and Mississippi rivers
- May reach 8 feet in length and more than 300 pounds



Rebecca Haefner illustrations

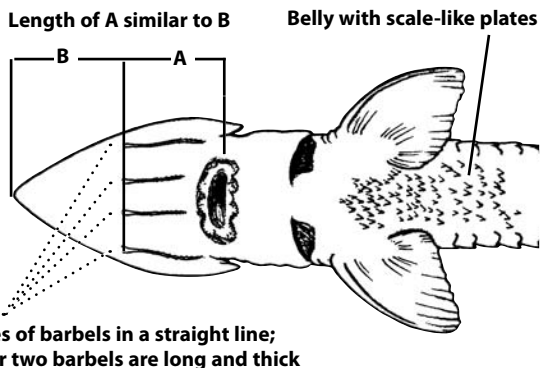
## Endangered pallid sturgeon

- Grayish-white color
- Found in the Missouri River and in the Mississippi downstream from the mouth of the Illinois River
- May exceed 30 inches in length and reach 10 pounds or more



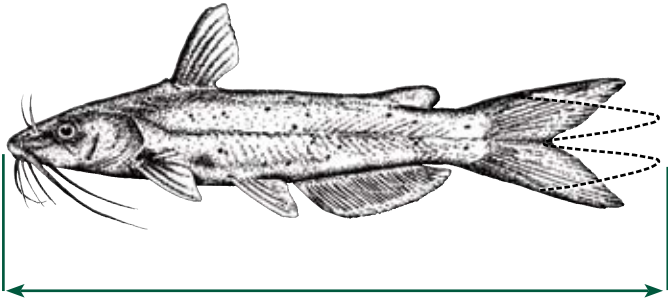
## Shovelnose sturgeon

- Reddish-brown or buff color. See illustration on page 25.
- Found throughout Missouri and Mississippi rivers
- Rarely exceeds 30 inches in length or 5 pounds



*If you catch a pallid or lake sturgeon, release it immediately, then report the sighting to: Missouri Department of Conservation, 1907 Hillcrest Drive, Columbia, MO 65201, or 573/884-6861.*

# How to Measure a Fish (total length)



Total length is measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail, with the fish laid flat on the ruler, with the mouth closed and the tail lobes pressed together.

# How to Measure a Paddlefish



Paddlefish are measured from the eye to the fork of the tail.

# How to Measure a Shovelnose Sturgeon



Sturgeon are measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. Only shovelnose sturgeon are legal to keep. See pages 25 and 26 for identification tips.



*Your purchase of hunting and fishing equipment and motorboat fuels supports wildlife and sport fish restoration and boating access facilities.*

# Special Area Regulations

Most public fishing areas have methods, seasons, limits or other fishing regulations that are different than the statewide rules. These special regulations are posted at the areas. It is your responsibility to know what regulations apply to the waters you are fishing. Please refer to area brochures, signs and bulletin boards before fishing these waters.

Special regulations on large reservoirs, rivers, streams and trout areas are summarized below. Special regulations also apply to the tributaries of some large reservoirs. These rules are listed under the name of the lake or stream. *Statewide regulations apply unless otherwise indicated below.*

## Large Reservoirs

### Blue Springs Lake

- Pole and line fishing only, except that shad may be taken by dip net or throw net.
- Black bass—15" minimum length limit

### Bull Shoals Lake

#### Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 12" minimum length limit on spotted bass
- Catfish (channel, blue and flathead)—10 fish daily limit, combined total of these three species
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

#### On the lake and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

#### In the Swan Creek Arm above U.S. Highway 160:

- From Feb. 20 through April 14, walleye and sauger may be taken and possessed only between ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

#### From Powersite Dam to Highway 76:

- Trotlines, throwlines and limb lines are prohibited.

### Lake of the Ozarks

#### Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 12" minimum length limit on spotted bass
- Crappie—9" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit
- Nongame fish—Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through April 30 only.

#### On the lake and its tributaries:

- Paddlefish—34" minimum body length, measured from eye to fork of tail
- No person shall continue to snag, snare or grab for any species after taking a daily limit of 2 paddlefish.

**Within 525 feet on the left descending bank and 977 feet on the right descending bank**

### **below Truman Dam in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' restricted zone:**

- No fishing is allowed.

### **From the downstream end of the no-fishing zone below Truman Dam throughout the no-boating zone (look for signs and buoys):**

- Catfish—The daily limit of channel, blue and flathead catfish is 4, combined total of these three species, and only 1 may be more than 24" in total length.
- Paddlefish may not be possessed.

### **From the downstream end of the no-fishing zone below Truman Dam to U.S. Highway 65:**

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, jug lines, snagging, snaring and grabbing are prohibited.

## **Lake Taneycomo**

### **On the lake and its tributaries:**

- Brown trout—20" minimum length limit; the daily limit of 4 trout, combined total of both species, may include only 1 brown trout.

### **Within 760 feet below Table Rock Dam:**

- No fishing is allowed.

### **From the closed zone 760 feet below Table Rock Dam to the mouth of Fall Creek:**

- Rainbow trout—12" to 20" slot length limit
- Pole and line fishing only
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

### **From the closed zone 760 feet below Table Rock Dam to U.S. Highway 65 bridge:**

- Fishing permit (unless exempt) and a trout permit are required to fish for any species.

## **Long Branch Lake**

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Hybrid striped bass—20" minimum length limit; daily limit of 4
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit
- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

## **Longview Lake**

- Pole and line fishing only, except that shad may be taken by dip net or throw net.
- Black bass—15" minimum length limit

## **Become a Master Angler**

The Conservation Department recognizes anglers who catch selected fish species that meet minimum weight or length requirements. To be eligible for a Master Angler award, anglers must catch fish in Missouri by legal sport-fishing methods. The catch does not need to be verified. Anglers are on their honor to provide accurate information.



To apply, write to Master Angler, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City MO 65102-0180; call 573/522-4115, ext. 3594; or look on the web at: [mdc.mo.gov/fish/records](http://mdc.mo.gov/fish/records).

## Mark Twain Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit

## Montrose Lake

- Black bass—18" minimum length limit; 2 fish daily limit
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit

## Norfolk Lake

### Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 12" minimum length limit on spotted bass
- Catfish (channel, blue and flathead)—Daily limit of 10 fish, combined total of these species
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

### On the lake and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

## Pomme de Terre Lake

- Black bass—13" minimum length limit
- Crappie—9" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

## Smithville Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—9" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

## Stockton Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

## Table Rock Lake

### Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Catfish (channel, blue and flathead)—Daily limit of 10 fish, combined total of these species
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit
- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

### On the lake and its tributaries:

- Paddlefish—34" minimum body length, measured from eye to fork of tail

## Thomas Hill Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit
- Hybrid striped bass—20" minimum length limit; daily limit of 4

## Truman Lake

### Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—9" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

- Nongame fish—Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through April 30 only.

### On the lake and its tributaries:

- Paddlefish—34" minimum body length, measured from eye to fork of tail
- No person shall continue to snag, snare or grab for any species after taking a daily limit of 2 paddlefish.

## Wappapello Lake

### Lakewide:

- Crappie—9" minimum length limit

### On the lake and its tributaries including the St. Francis River and its tributaries above Wappapello Dam

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

## Invasive zebra mussels are in Missouri!

*Your help is needed to help slow their movement.*



As of January 2010, these invasive mussels have been found in:

- Lake Taneycomo
- Bull Shoals Lake
- Lake of the Ozarks and the Osage River downstream from Bagnell Dam
- Mississippi and Missouri rivers
- Meramec River near St. Louis
- Pomme de Terre Lake

Although less than 2 inches long, these exotics:

- **DISRUPT** native aquatic animals and communities.
- **CLOG** the cooling systems of boat motors causing them to overheat.
- **PLUG** intake pipes, cutting off water supplies to cities and power plants.
- **RUIN** beaches with their sharp shells and rotting carcasses.
- **SPREAD** quickly. A single female can produce 1 million eggs a year.

### *To help stop the invasion of this European mussel: Inspect, Drain, Dump, Rinse, Dry!*

- **INSPECT** your boat for mussels after each use, remove and trash mussels and water weeds before leaving any body of water.
- **DRAIN** all water from your boat, bait buckets and equipment before leaving any body of water. Then disinfect them.
- **DUMP** unused bait in a trash container before leaving any body of water.
- **RINSE** your boat's hull, drive unit, livewell and pump, bilge, trailer, bait bucket, engine cooling system and all other parts and accessories that get wet with hot water.
- **DRY** your boat, motor and trailer thoroughly for 5 days before boating again.

*Report sightings to: Invasive Species Coordinator, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, 573/751-4115. Save several mussel shells for identification by placing them in isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol or by freezing them.*



# Rivers and Streams

## Barren Fork Creek

### In Shannon County from County Road A-D to Sinking Creek:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging, bowfishing and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Big Piney River

### From Highway 17 to the Gasconade River:

- Goggle-eye—8" minimum length limit

### From Slabtown Access to Ross Access:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Big River

### Mainstem and its tributaries, except as noted below:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

### From Leadwood Access to the Meramec River:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species, may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Black River

### Within the wing walls of Clearwater Dam:

- No fishing is allowed.

### Within 700 feet below the spillway walls of Clearwater Dam:

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, bowfishing, gigging and atlatls are prohibited.

## Stop Fish and Wildlife Thieves and Arsonists

Operation Game Thief and Operation Forest Arson are privately funded programs to help combat poaching and arson-caused forest fires in Missouri. Rewards are available for information leading to the arrest of game law violators and forest arsonists.

If you see a possible violation in progress, call your county conservation agent immediately or dial toll-free 1-800-392-1111. All information is kept in strict confidence.

*Sponsored by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service.*



## Blue Springs Creek

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

### In Crawford County from Blue Springs to the Meramec River:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging, bowfishing and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Bourbeuse River

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit

## Courtois Creek

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit

### From Highway 8 bridge in Crawford County to Huzzah Creek:

- Goggle-eye—8" minimum length limit

## Crane Creek

### In Stone and Lawrence counties upstream from Quail Spur Crossing on Stone County Road 13-195:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging, bowfishing and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Current River

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

### From Montauk State Park to Cedar Grove:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging, bowfishing and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

### From Cedar Grove to the Arkansas line:

- Nongame fish—The daily limit may include no more than 5 hogsuckers.

## Dry Fork Creek

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

### In Crawford and Phelps counties from the elevated cable crossing to the Meramec River:



Part of the Meramec River Red Ribbon Trout Area—See page 19 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

### In Phelps and Dent counties, upstream from the elevated cable crossing:

- Trout—15" minimum length limit; daily limit 2.

## Eleven Point River

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

### From Thomasville Access to the Arkansas line:

- Goggle-eye—8" minimum length limit.
- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

### From Greer Spring Branch to Turner Mill:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging, bowfishing and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Elk River

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit; 2 fish daily limit

## Gasconade River

### From Highway Y in Pulaski County to Highway D in Phelps County:

- Smallmouth bass—18" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Discover new fishing spots online

Find conservation areas to explore or float a bobber at [mdc.mo.gov/atlas](http://mdc.mo.gov/atlas).

Learn about the state's four trout parks, 120 miles of spring-fed cold water managed trout streams, urban lakes and Lake Taneycomo at [mdc.mo.gov/trout/7248](http://mdc.mo.gov/trout/7248).

Discover Missouri's best smallmouth bass fishing streams at [mdc.mo.gov/13226](http://mdc.mo.gov/13226).

For free printed maps, write to "Discover Outdoor Missouri," "Smallmouth Bass Map" or "Trout Map," Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, or e-mail [pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov).

## Greer Spring Branch

**As posted upstream from the south boundary of the private reservation:**

- No fishing is allowed.

## Hickory Creek

**Mainstem and its tributaries**



White Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species from Nov. 1 through Feb. 28.

## Huzzah Creek

**Mainstem and its tributaries:**

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit

**From Willhite Road in Crawford County to the Meramec River:**

- Goggle-eye—8" minimum length limit

## Jacks Fork River

**From Highway 17 to Highway 106:**

- Smallmouth bass—18" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## James River

**From Hooten Town bridge on Stone County Road A-90 to Highway 13:**

- Largemouth bass—15" minimum length limit
- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Joachim Creek

**From Jefferson County Highway V bridge to Highway A bridge:**

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Little Piney Creek

**From the Phelps County line in sections 9 and 16 of T35N, R8W, including Piney Spring Branch and Lane Spring Branch to Milldam Hollow Access:**



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 19 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging, bowfishing and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Little Platte River

**Between Smithville Dam and U.S. Highway 169:**

- Pole and line fishing only
- Paddlefish may not be possessed on the water or adjacent banks.

## Meramec River

### Mainstem and its tributaries, except as noted below:

- Black bass—Daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit

### From Highway 8 bridge to Scott's Ford:



Red Ribbon Trout Area—See page 19 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

### From Scott's Ford to the railroad crossing at Bird's Nest:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. Daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species, may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

### From Highway 19 bridge in Dent County to Pacific Palisades Conservation Area:

- Goggle-eye—8" minimum length limit

## Mill Creek

### From Yelton Spring to Little Piney Creek, including Wilkins Spring and spring branch:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 19 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging, bowfishing and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Mineral Fork

### Mainstem and its tributaries, except as noted below:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

### From Highway F in Washington County to the Big River:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. Daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species, may include only 1 smallmouth bass

## Handle lead fishing sinkers carefully

To prevent exposure to lead while fishing, take the following precautions:

- Wash hands with soap after holding lead sinkers, especially before eating.
- Never bite down or chew lead sinkers.
- Take proper precautions when melting lead and pouring sinkers at home.
- Use sinkers made of other materials, such as steel, bismuth, tungsten, resin and glass. Avoid sinkers made from zinc, as they also are toxic to waterfowl.

## **Mississippi River, including Pools 20-26**

- Black bass—12" minimum length limit
- Channel catfish and blue catfish—The daily and possession limit is 20, combined total of these species..
- Flathead catfish—The daily and possession limit is 10 fish.
- Paddlefish—The open season is March 15 through May 15 and Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.
- Walleye and sauger—No minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit is 8, combined total of both species. No seasonal restrictions on the hours for take and possession.
- White bass, yellow bass, striped bass and their hybrids—No minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit is 30, combined total of these species.
- Nongame fish—The daily and possession limit is 100, combined total of these species, except that bighead carp, common carp, goldfish, grass carp and silver carp may be taken and possessed in any number. Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through May 15 and from Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.
- Nongame fish may be taken by bow and possessed at any hour of the day in all flowing portions, except in Sand Chute below the mouth of the Salt River in Pike County where they may only be taken by bow from sunrise to midnight.
- Limit of 2 poles per licensed angler
- Limit of 50 hooks on a trotline

## **Temporary overflow waters east of the Missouri Pacific Railroad between Cape Girardeau and Scott City**

- Nongame fish may be taken by bow and possessed at any hour of the day.

## **Temporary overflow waters east of the mainline and setback levees between Commerce and the Arkansas state line**

- Nongame fish may be taken by bow and possessed at any hour of the day.

## **Missouri River**

- Walleye and sauger—No seasonal restrictions on the hours for take and possession.
- Nongame fish may be taken by bow and possessed at any hour of the day in all flowing portions.

## **Downstream from Carl R. Noren Access to Chamois Access**

- All shovelnose sturgeon must be returned to the water immediately after being caught.

## **North Fork of the White River**

### **From the upper outlet of Rainbow Spring to Patrick Bridge:**



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 19 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Giggging, bowfishing and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

### **The unimpounded portion of river and its tributaries in Ozark County from Patrick Bridge to Norfolk Lake:**



Red Ribbon Trout Area—See page 20 for special regulations.

## Osage River

**Within 525 feet on the left descending bank and 977 feet on the right descending bank below Truman Dam in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' restricted zone:**

- No fishing is allowed.

**From the downstream end of the no-fishing zone below Truman Dam throughout the no-boating zone (look for signs and buoys):**

- Catfish—The daily limit of channel, blue and flathead catfish is 4, combined total of these species, and only one 1 may be more than 24" in total length.
- Paddlefish may not be possessed on the water or adjacent banks.

**From the downstream end of the no-fishing zone below Truman Dam to U.S. Highway 65:**

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, jug lines, snagging, snaring and grabbing are prohibited.

**Within 225 feet below Bagnell Dam:**

- No fishing is allowed, except live bait may be taken by dip net and throw net only.

**From the no-fishing zone below Bagnell Dam to U.S. Highway 54:**

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, snagging, snaring and grabbing are prohibited.

**From U.S. Highway 54 to the Missouri River:**

- Nongame fish—Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through April 30 only.
- No person shall continue to snag, snare or grab for any species after taking a daily limit of 2 paddlefish

## Osage Fork of the Gasconade River

**From Skyline Drive bridge near Orla in Laclede County to the Gasconade River:**

- Goggle-eye—8" minimum length limit.
- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Catch on to catch-and-release fishing

Often, fishing is for pleasure rather than for food. Catch and release or releasing fish immediately after they are caught, is a conservation measure that contributes to fish populations, rather than decreases them. Following a few basic guidelines will increase the chances of a fish's survival:

- Whenever possible, do not take the fish out of the water.
- Filing the barbs off hooks makes removal easier.
- Never pull a hook from the fish's throat or stomach; it is better to cut the line—many hooks will rust away.
- Avoid excessive handling of fish.
- If handling is necessary, make certain not to squeeze or drop the fish.
- Never put your fingers in the gills or eye sockets.

Many anglers are starting to catch on to catch and release. Releasing fish helps maintain a fishery for the future!



## Roubidoux Creek

**From the elevated utility cable crossing approximately 1/2 mile below the Business I-44 bridge in Waynesville to the Gasconade River:**



Red Ribbon Trout Area—See page 20 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

## Sac River

**From below Stockton Dam to Highway 32:**

- Pole and line fishing only

## St. Francis River

**Above Wappapello Dam, from the lake and its tributaries including the St. Francis River and its tributaries:**

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit.

**Within 225 feet below Wappapello Dam:**

- No fishing is allowed.

**From within 700 feet below the spillway walls of Wappapello Dam:**

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, bowfishing, gigging and atlatls are prohibited.

**Within that part of the river that forms a boundary between Arkansas and Missouri**

- Nongame fish may be taken by bow and possessed at any hour of the day in the flowing portions.

## Salt River

**On the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool within 400 feet below Clarence Cannon Dam in the no boating zone:**

- No fishing is allowed.

**From the downstream end of the no fishing zone below Clarence Cannon Dam to the posted powerline crossing on the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool:**

- Pole and line fishing only.

**From the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool below Mark Twain Lake dam:**

- Black bass—12" minimum length limit

**From the no-boating zone 1,100 feet below the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool Dam to Route A:**

- Fishing by pole and line and bow only

*Many lakes in Missouri have docks that provide easy access to good fishing. For a comprehensive list of disabled-accessible fishing spots and other facilities around the state, write for the free booklet: "Disabled-Accessible Outdoors," P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180 or send an e-mail to [pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov).*



## Spring Creek

### In Phelps County from Relfe Spring to the Big Piney River:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—see page 20 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging, bowfishing and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Tenmile Creek

### From Highway B in Carter County to Cane Creek:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Poachers, Beware!

### Convicted wildlife violators lose hunting & fishing privileges in 31 states.

Missouri is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator's Compact, an agreement whereby 31 participating states share information about game law violators and honor each other's decisions to deny permits to perennial poachers.

In the past, poachers whose hunting, fishing or trapping privileges were suspended in one state could drive to another state and purchase a permit.

Now, if your permit is revoked in Missouri, you will lose privileges in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Missouri, in turn, will honor revocations in these same states.

## A Few Words About Culling

Any fish you catch is included in your daily limit unless you release it unharmed immediately. You may not replace smaller fish in your possession with larger ones caught later. You need to make a keep-or-release decision as soon as the fish is caught.

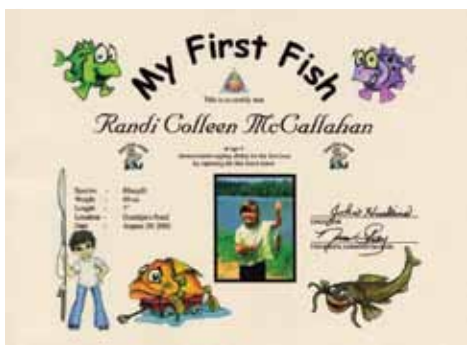
There is one exception: If, from September through June, you are a participant in a *bona fide* catch-and-release black bass tournament (one after which all bass are released alive), which requires entrants to have a boat livewell with adequate capacity and a pump constantly adding fresh or recirculating water, the black bass you release unharmed from the livewell need not be included in your daily limit. At no time may the daily limit be exceeded.

## Showcase Your First Catch

The First Fish Award commemorates that special moment in each angler's life, the landing of the first fish. The award certificate, suitable for framing, is available to any first time angler regardless of age. There is no time limit on when the fish was caught; so whether your first fish was caught last week or 50 years ago, send for an application by writing to:

### First Fish Program

**Missouri Department of Conservation**  
P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180



Applications also are available at:  
[mdc.mo.gov/62](http://mdc.mo.gov/62).

## Contact Information

### Administrative Office

P.O. Box 180 (zip 65102)  
2901 W. Truman Blvd.  
Jefferson City 65109  
573/751-4115  
Fax: 573/751-4467

### Northwest

701 James McCarthy Drive  
St. Joseph 64507  
816/271-3100  
Fax: 816/271-3107

### Northeast

3500 S. Baltimore  
Kirksville 63501  
660/785-2420  
Fax: 660/785-2553

### Kansas City

3424 N.W. Duncan  
Road  
Blue Springs 64015  
816/655-6250  
Fax: 816/655-6256

### Central

1907 Hillcrest Drive  
Columbia 65201  
573/884-6861  
Fax: 573/882-9807

### St. Louis

2360 Highway D  
St. Charles 63304  
636/441-4554  
Fax: 636/926-9125

### Ozark

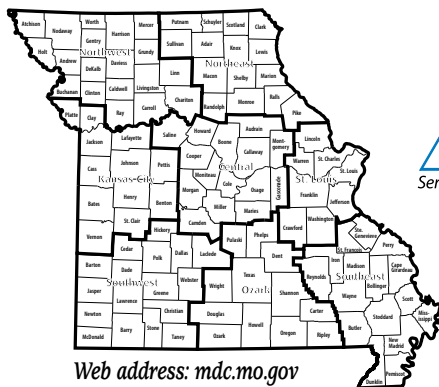
551 Joe Jones Blvd.  
West Plains 65775  
417/256-7161  
Fax: 417/256-0429

### Southwest

2630 N. Mayfair  
Springfield 65803  
417/895-6880  
Fax: 417/895-6910

### Southeast

2302 County Park Drive  
Cape Girardeau 63701  
573/290-5730  
Fax: 573/290-5736



Web address: [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov)



**Director, Department of Conservation**  
Robert L. Ziehmer

### The Conservation Commission

Don C. Bedell      Chip McGeehan  
Don R. Johnson    Becky L. Plattner

# Fish Consumption Advisory

Fish is a good source of high-quality protein and essential nutrients that contribute to a healthy diet. Fish is low in cholesterol, and some types of fish have omega-3 fatty acids that are essential for the development of the nervous system and may be beneficial in reducing heart disease. However, there are occasions when limited or even no consumption of fish is appropriate.

Annually, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services evaluates the amount of contaminants in sport-caught fish and determines whether or not there are any health risks associated with eating fish from Missouri water bodies. All fish contain some small amount of chemical contaminants. In most instances and for most people, the health benefits of eating fish outweigh the potential health risks from contaminants.

In general, eat smaller, legal-size, younger fish because they tend to have lower levels of contamination than larger fish of the same species. To minimize the amount of contaminants in the fish you eat, fillet your fish, remove the skin and trim away fatty portions. The meal advice in the summarized advisory table on the next page is based on this preparation technique.

Because children are particularly sensitive to some contaminants, DHSS makes special recommendations for pregnant women, women of childbearing age, nursing mothers and children under 13 years old. Other recommendations are for everyone. On the next page is a summarized advisory table for 2010.

The fish advisory may be revised throughout the year. For updates and for the complete fish advisory, which provides further details on contaminants and preparation techniques to minimize contaminants, go to [www.dhss.mo.gov/fishadvisory](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/fishadvisory) or contact the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology, P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0570; 573/751-6102.

## Subscribe to the *Missouri Conservationist*

Bring nature and outdoor recreation into your home with the *Missouri Conservationist*, free to adult Missouri residents. Out-of-state subscriptions are \$7 a year. Foreign subscriptions are \$10 a year. Please include payment with subscription request.

To subscribe, call 573/522-4115, ext. 3856, or send your name, address and payment if required to:

*Conservationist* Subscription, Circulation Office, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City MO 65102-0180. In-state subscribers can order online at [mdc.mo.gov/conmag](http://mdc.mo.gov/conmag).

You'll begin receiving the magazine in about 6 to 8 weeks. One magazine per household, please.



| Advisory Population   | Location*— Contaminant  | Species  | Length           | Serving Advice |
|---|---|--|------------------|----------------|
| Sensitive populations:<br>Pregnant women, women<br>of childbearing age,<br>nursing mothers and<br>children under the age 13 | All U.S. water bodies—mercury   | All fish   | all sizes        | 1 per week     |
|   | Because all fish have various levels of mercury, the Environmental Protection Agency recommends sensitive populations consume no more than 1 meal per week when no other advisory is present. |  |                  |                |
|   | Statewide—mercury   | Largemouth, spotted, smallmouth bass and walleye | greater than 12" | 1 per month    |
|   | Clearwater Lake in Reynolds County—mercury  | White bass                                       | greater than 15" | 1 per month    |
| All consumers   | Mississippi & Missouri rivers—PCBs, chlordane, mercury  | Shovelnose sturgeon (excluding eggs)             | all sizes        | 1 per month    |
|   |   | Sturgeon eggs                                    |                  | Do not eat.    |
|   |   | Flathead, channel, blue catfish                  | greater than 17" | 1 per week     |
|   |   | Carp species                                     | greater than 21" | 1 per week     |
|   | Blue River from Minor Park in Jackson County to the Missouri River—PCBs, chlordane  | Carp species and channel catfish                 | all sizes        | 1 per month    |
|   | Turkey Creek near Hwy. P in Jasper County—PCBs, chlordane   | Buffalo species                                  | greater than 21" | 1 per week     |
|   | Big River in St. Francois & Jefferson counties—lead   | Sunfish, carp, redhorse and other suckers        | all sizes        | Do not eat.    |
|   | Flat River in St. Francois County from Hwy. B, 6 miles downstream to where it enters Big River—lead   | Sunfish, carp, redhorse and other suckers        | all sizes        | Do not eat.    |
|   | Big Creek near Glover in Iron County—lead   | Sunfish  | all sizes        | Do not eat.    |
|   | Simpson Park Lake at Simpson Park in St. Louis County—mercury, chlordane, PCBs  | Buffalo  | greater than 16" | 1 per month    |

*\* If you fish at a location with warning signs posted, follow those specific local guidelines. The locations in this summary table do not include local warnings.*

## Team Up For Streams

You can help protect Missouri's valuable stream habitat by starting a Stream Team in your area. By becoming a part of this program, you can stay updated on current stream issues and improve our aquatic resources.



Among other activities, team members clean up trash, plant trees, stencil storm drains and monitor water quality.

For more information, contact the Missouri Department of Conservation, Stream Unit, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180. Or call 573/522-4115, ext. 3169, or 1-800-781-1989. Or go online at [mdc.mo.gov/programs/strteam](http://mdc.mo.gov/programs/strteam).

## Definitions

■ **Atlatl:** A rod or narrow board-like device used to launch, through a throwing motion of the arm, a dart 5 to 8 feet in length.

■ **Backwater:** Any flowing or nonflowing water lying exclusively within the floodplain of a river and connected to that river at any water level below official flood stage for the portion of river where the backwater occurs. Backwater does not include tributary streams and ditches, but may include side channels, chutes, sloughs, bayous, oxbows and blew holes.

■ **Bow:** A device drawn and held by hand and not fastened to a stock nor to any other mechanism that maintains the device in a drawn position. This definition includes longbows, recurve bows and compound bows.

■ **Flies, Lures and Baits:** The following classes of lures are authorized for use, except where restricted. See pages 16-20 and 28-40.

(A) **Natural and scented baits**—A natural fish food such as bait fish, crayfish, frogs permitted as bait, grubs, insects, larvae, worms, salmon eggs, cheese, corn and other food substances not containing any ingredient to stupefy, injure or kill fish. Does not include flies or artificial lures. Includes dough bait, putty or paste-type bait, any substance designed to attract fish by taste or smell and any fly, lure or bait containing or used with such substances.

(B) **Soft plastic bait (unscented)**—Synthetic eggs, synthetic worms, synthetic grubs and soft plastic lures.

(C) **Artificial Lure**—A lure constructed of any material excluding soft plastic bait and natural and scented bait defined in (A) or (B) above.

(D) **Fly**—An artificial lure constructed on a single-point hook, using any material except soft plastic bait and natural and scented bait as defined in (A) or (B) above, that is tied, glued or otherwise permanently attached.

■ **Days or Dates:** All days and dates are inclusive. A day begins or ends at midnight, unless otherwise specified.

■ **Endangered Fish:** Lake sturgeon, pallid sturgeon, taillight shiner, Neosho madtom, spring cavefish, harlequin darter, goldstripe darter, cypress minnow, central mudminnow, crystal darter, swamp darter, Ozark cavefish, Niangua darter, Sabine shiner, mountain madtom, redfin darter, longnose darter, flathead chub, Topeka shiner. *These fish may not be kept.*

■ **Game Fish:** Goggle-eye (commonly known as Ozark bass, rock bass and shadow bass), warmouth, northern pike, muskellunge, tiger muskie, muskie-pike hybrid, chain pickerel, grass pickerel, all species of catfish except bullheads, all species of black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted), paddlefish (spoonbill), all species of crappie, white bass, yellow bass and striped bass, trout, walleye, sauger and shovelnose sturgeon.

■ **Grabbing:** Snagging or attempting to snag a fish by means of a pole, line and hook manipulated by hand.

■ **Hook:** Single- or multiple-pronged hooks and ordinary artificial lures with attached single- or multiple-pronged hooks and dropper flies. A multiple-pronged hook, or 2 or more hooks used to hold a single bait are considered a single hook.

■ **Lessee:** Any Missouri resident who lives on and leases at least 5 acres of land in one single tract owned by others. This also includes any member of the immediate household whose legal residence is the same as the lessee for at least the past 30 days.

■ **Resident Landowner:** Any Missouri resident who owns at least 5 continuous acres, and his or her immediate household members whose legal residence is the same as the landowner's for at least the past 30 days. In the case of corporate ownership, only registered officers of corporations meet this definition and they are not required to reside on the land. Persons who own stock in a corporation (shareholders) do not meet this definition.

■ **Nongame Fish:** All species other than those listed as endangered or defined as game fish. Nongame fish are referred to as "other fish" in the *Wildlife Code*.

■ **Pole and Line:** Fishing methods using tackle normally held in the hand, such as a cane pole, casting rod, spinning rod or fly rod, or ice fishing tackle commonly known as a tip-up, to which not more than 3 hooks with bait or lures are attached. Does not include snagging, snaring, grabbing, trotlines, juglines or other tackle normally attached in a fixed position.

■ **Take or Taking:** Killing, trapping, snaring, netting or capturing in any manner any wildlife, and also refers to pursuing, molesting, hunting, wounding; or the placing, setting, or use of any net, trap, device, contrivance or substance, in an attempt to take wildlife; and every act of assistance to every other person in taking or attempting to take any wildlife.

## New nature magazine for kids



Inspire the children in your life to get outside! Sign them up for *Xplor*; and six times a year, your kids will receive stories and photos about Missouri coolest critters, niftiest natural places and lively outdoor activities. The magazine is free to Missouri households. Out-of-state subscriptions are \$5 a year. Foreign subscriptions are \$8 a year. Include payment with request. Parental consent is required.

To subscribe, go to [mdc.mo.gov/xplor](http://mdc.mo.gov/xplor), call 573/522-4115, ext. 3856, or write to Xplor, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180. You'll begin receiving the magazine in about 6 to 8 weeks. One magazine per household, please.



## Think you've got a record?

The Department of Conservation maintains a list of Missouri State Record Fish and recognizes anglers who catch them. To be eligible for an award, your fish must be taken legally and you must:

- Weigh it in the presence of Conservation Department personnel on a certified scale.
- Have your fish identification verified by a Conservation Department fisheries biologist.

### Weights of Selected Missouri State Record Fish

| <i>Species</i>                      | <i>Pole, Line &amp; Lure</i> |        | <i>Alternative Methods</i> |        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| Largemouth bass                     | 13 lb.                       | 14 oz. | 8 lb.                      | 2 oz.  |
| Smallmouth bass                     | 7 lb.                        | 2 oz.  | 4 lb.                      | 3 oz.  |
| Spotted bass                        | 7 lb.                        | 8 oz.  |                            |        |
| Black crappie— <b>World Record!</b> | 5 lb.                        | 0 oz.  | 3 lb.                      | 3 oz.  |
| Bluegill                            | 3 lb.                        | 0 oz.  |                            |        |
| Common carp                         | 50 lb.                       | 6 oz.  | 55 lb.                     | 0 oz.  |
| Blue catfish                        | 103 lb.                      | 0 oz.  | 117 lb.                    | 0 oz.  |
| Channel catfish                     | 34 lb.                       | 10 oz. | 29 lb.                     | 14 oz. |
| Flathead catfish                    | 77 lb.                       | 8 oz.  | 94 lb.                     | 0 oz.  |
| White crappie                       | 4 lb.                        | 9 oz.  |                            |        |
| Muskellunge                         | 41 lb.                       | 2 oz.  |                            |        |
| Paddlefish                          |                              |        | 139 lb.                    | 4 oz.  |
| Goggle-eye                          | 2 lb.                        | 12 oz. |                            |        |
| Rainbow trout                       | 18 lb.                       | 1 oz.  | 15 lb.                     | 6 oz.  |
| Brown trout                         | 28 lb.                       | 12 oz. |                            |        |
| Walleye                             | 21 lb.                       | 1 oz.  |                            |        |

Record Fish forms and information are available on the web at [mdc.mo.gov/fish/records](http://mdc.mo.gov/fish/records); by writing Missouri Department of Conservation, Fisheries Division, State Record Fish, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180; or by calling 573/751-4115.

**Note:** All Missouri State Record Fish must meet or exceed the minimum weight requirements for Master Angler Awards. See page 29.

## Earn a patch for releasing lunker trout

If you legally catch a trout at least 18 inches long in one of Missouri's trout parks and release it in the presence of a witness between March 1 and Oct. 31, you can receive a free patch for your fishing vest. Pick up an "I Released a Lunker" program application from the fish hatchery at the park. Once you and your witness have signed the application, hatchery staff will present your patch. Catch and release a lunker at all four parks and win the Grand Slam patch. Arrange the four patches around the colorful Grand Slam patch, and show the world you're serious about fishing Missouri's trout parks and releasing lunker trout for other anglers to enjoy.

